

May 27, 1918.

Dear Miss Cleveland:

Your note was read with much interest, but with considerable disappointment. I have carefully re-read the action of the faculty as recorded in our minutes and I must say that I do not find anything to, in my estimation, justify the interpretation which you have put upon the matter. The language of the pertinent passage is this: "whenever an excuse is granted it carries the privilege of making up work missed which, if undertaken, must be done to the satisfaction of the instructor concerned."

The language of this passage certainly, in my estimation, gives much discretion to the instructor, which fact, as I understand your note, has not been recognized by you at all. Again, it distinctly states that the work to be made up is "work missed", and I should certainly presume that this means the ~~work~~ in both quantity and kind must be just exactly what was missed by the absence.

If my first interpretation is true, I see no cause whatever for any lack of latitude on the part of the instructor to say what shall be done, and if my second interpretation is correct it would certainly appear inappropriate to require a test in grammar to cover work missed in literature.

So far as the reference to my own class is concerned I shall of course refer to it only to say that I am entirely responsible for my interpretation of the faculty regulations as stated above, and am perfectly willing to stand by my action.

In justice to the students I think I should refer to your statement that "you were surrounded by girls and the conversation seemed interesting, as I wouldn't break in. Of course I never dreamed that I could be the topic. I waited around, but they lingered, etc." The implication here, while a surprise to me, would be passed without comment but for the fact that I think it might place the "girls" in an incorrect position. I will state, therefore, that so far as I can recollect I was "surrounded by" Miss Dallas Warren and Miss Mae Hoover, and the occasion for the surrounding was a telephone message (I judge it was by telephone) brought to me by Miss Hoover, who happened to be accompanied by Miss Warren, from Miss Audrey Girard concerning her examination in the Philosophy of Education. I went to get the notes and brought Miss Warren's to her at the time, then stood conversing with them on the subject of examinations and other topics awhile, but English examinations and other instructors than myself were not mentioned. Earlier in the day I was standing in the center of the lobby talking to several girls about another matter entirely with no reference to examinations or instructors. These are the only occasions, so far as I can recall, when I was "surrounded" by as many as two girls outside of my office. Such knowledge which

I had concerning the English examinations was obtained in my office in a more or less general conversation with a number of girls who had been sick with measles. The information was purely voluntary on their part, and at the close of the conversation they asked me to say nothing about it to anyone. In justice to Miss Fisher permit me to say that I have not spoken two words to her in the past two weeks to ~~anyone~~ the best of recollection. Again I desire to state that, the only way in which I can excuse to myself this reference to the students is by thinking that it is due them that I set you straight with reference to them.

As for rescinding the action of the faculty, that seems to me to be totally unnecessary. It is impossible, in my estimation, to make any regulations which do not call for the exercise of discretion on the part of the instructors, altho it is seldom that such regulations so positively state that discretion is allowed as in the case of the one quoted above. There would be our judges and juries if the law of the land permitted no discretion?

My only interest is to see that justice is done the students while standards are maintained, and frankly I think you have been, from your own statements in the vote, too severe upon these particular students, and have not carried out the intent of the faculty regulation as I understand it, altho I know, of course, that you were carrying it out strictly in accordance with your own interpretation. I think you have misunderstand it, and I am sorry for it.

Very sincerely yours,